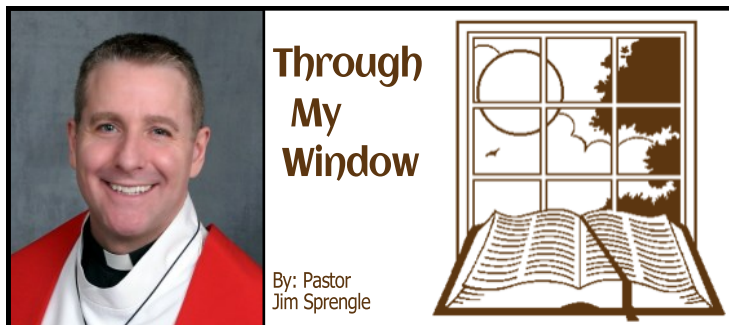


The Acts of Ascension



Through
My
Window

By: Pastor
Jim Sprengle

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace... in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ,” (1 Peter 4:10-11, ESV).

In 2008, officials from the Russian Orthodox Church were astounded when they found one of their church buildings had disappeared. The church was located in Moscow and sat empty and unused for almost ten years. As the Orthodox Church began to grow enough to open the site again, they found nothing there. After an investigation, they found that people from a nearby village were the culprits. Villagers were encouraged to remove bricks from the building by a local businessman, and he offered them a ruble, or a few cents, per brick. It took a long time, but the church was dismantled one brick at a time until it was gone.

As you imagine an empty lot where a church used to be, consider how it applies to our life in the Body of Christ. The Church is not built with bricks, but “living stones,” (1 Peter 2:5). Yet even strong congregations can be slowly dismantled, not from a single event, but through many individual decisions. When believers step back from the life of the church, choosing to bury their gifts and talents rather than use them for the good of the Body, the church erodes. The visible body of Christ is gradually worn down as we step back.

At the same time, the opposite is just as true. Each act of service, each use of one’s God-given gifts, each commitment to the shared life of the congregation contributes to something greater than the individual. In our various callings, within the church and in daily life, Christ continues to build His people into a holy dwelling. Where His gifts are received and put into service, the church

is strengthened, and His glory is made known.

We will be asking for various members of our congregation to step up and serve in positions for the upcoming year. I pray that each of you will consider where Ascension needs support and be willing to step into those places. May God bless us as “...that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ”!

Blessings,


Pr Jim

1 Source: “Russian Orthodox church stolen—brick by brick,” Associated Press, (11-13-08)

¡Gracia y paz a ustedes, de Dios nuestro Padre y del Señor Jesucristo!

“Cada uno ponga al servicio de los demás el don que haya recibido... Así Dios será en todo alabado por medio de Jesucristo,” (1 Pedro 4:10-11, NVI).

En 2008, los oficiales de la Iglesia Ortodoxa Rusa quedaron asombrados al descubrir que uno de sus edificios eclesiásticos había desaparecido. La iglesia estaba ubicada en Moscú y había permanecido vacía y sin uso durante casi diez años. Cuando la Iglesia Ortodoxa comenzó a crecer lo suficiente como para reabrir ese lugar, no encontraron nada allí. Después de una investigación, descubrieron que los responsables eran personas de una aldea cercana. Un empresario local había animado a los aldeanos a retirar ladrillos del edificio, ofreciéndoles un rublo, o unos pocos centavos, por cada ladrillo. Tomó mucho tiempo, pero la iglesia fue desmantelada ladrillo por ladrillo hasta desaparecer.

Al imaginar un terreno vacío donde antes había una iglesia, considere cómo esto se aplica a nuestra vida en el Cuerpo de Cristo. La Iglesia no está construida con ladrillos, sino con “piedras vivas” (1 Pedro 2:5). Sin embargo, incluso las congregaciones fuertes pueden ser desmanteladas lentamente, no por un solo evento, sino por muchas decisiones individuales.

(Continúa en la página 2)



The Acts of Ascension

Ascension Lutheran Church

1440 SE 182nd Avenue
Portland OR 97233-5009
Church Office: 503-665-8821

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday, 9:00am – 3:00pm

Web site:

www.alcportland.org

Our Mission Statement:

Go and Share Jesus Christ

Our Vision Statement:

Take part...

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THROUGH MY WINDOW

(Viene de la página 1)

Cuando los creyentes se apartan de la vida de la iglesia, eligiendo enterrar sus dones y talentos en lugar de usarlos para el bien del Cuerpo, la iglesia se deteriora. El cuerpo visible de Cristo se va desgastando gradualmente cuando nos retiramos.

Al mismo tiempo, lo contrario también es cierto. Cada acto de servicio, cada uso de los dones que Dios ha dado, cada compromiso con la vida compartida de la congregación contribuye a algo mayor que el individuo. En nuestras diversas vocaciones, dentro de la iglesia y en la vida diaria, Cristo continúa edificando a su pueblo como una morada santa. Donde sus dones son recibidos y puestos en servicio, la iglesia es fortalecida y su gloria es manifestada.

Estaremos invitando a varios miembros de nuestra congregación a dar un paso adelante y servir en diferentes funciones para el próximo año. Oro para que cada uno de ustedes considere dónde Ascension necesita apoyo y esté dispuesto a ocupar esos lugares. Que Dios nos bendiga, para que "...en todo sea Dios glorificado por medio de Jesucristo".

Benedicciones,

Pr Jim



Join us for our upcoming Voter's Assembly on May 24 following the 11:00am worship.

This is your opportunity to make your voice heard, to contribute your ideas, and to play a direct role in the decisions that will guide our church forward. Your presence is not just appreciated; it's absolutely essential.

Let's stand together, united in our commitment to our church's mission and vision. Your support and participation are what make our community strong.

Mark your calendars, spread the word, and let's gather to make a difference on May 24 after the late worship service in the community room.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Deaths / Funerals / Memorials –

- Don Tigges, died March 30, 2026, memorial service, April 11
- Lorraine Haggard, died April 16, 2026, funeral service to be held on May 9 at 11:00am
- Don Dillon, (non-member) died April 19, memorial service to be held on May 16 at 1:00pm

Marriages –

- Wyatt Brown & Katherine Houk, wedding planned for May 22, 2026
- Barbara Wheeler & Nate Williams, wedding date TBA

Baptisms –

- Sam Brannies, Samantha (Cassetty) and Joel Brannies' baby, June, 7 at 11:00am

Transfers, New Members, etc. –

- C-101 (new member class) has 8 participants currently enrolled

Latino Membership –

- Hana Brandt will finish deaconess studies in June. Lutheran Latino Ministries is calling her and she will have a commissioning service in August

Circuit Visitor Info –

- Immanuel, Hood River – Pr Tyler Moore accepted a call to Kelowna, British Columbia, departing after Easter.
 - ◊ Pastor Luke Shirley from Faith, The Dalles, will fill in as vacancy pastor while Immanuel calls a new pastor
- Immanuel, Sandy – Brad and I are still covering 1st Sundays each month
 - ◊ Seminarian Candidate Michael Hahn was given the placement of Immanuel, Sandy / Peace, Estacada Dual Parish on April 29, 2026. We thank God for blessing these congregations with a pastor, and a future date for ordination and installation will be announced (likely mid-summer).
- Peace, Estacada
 - ◊ See Immanuel, Sandy update
- Holy Cross, Portland – Pr Larry Locke is the new vacancy pastor from January until July, as they continue with call process
 - ◊ Submitted congregational self-study to the District Office and receiving a list of candidates to call

- Trinity, Oregon City – Pastors Ted Engelbrecht and Dave Kyle will cover Sundays until May as the Call Committee reconvenes to seek the next pastor
 - ◊ There was a call meeting on April 12 to call a new pastor

Miscellaneous –

- **Wyatt Brown**
 - ◊ Wyatt continues to take part in services and leading liturgy
 - ◊ He passed all pre-qualifier tests - congrats!
 - ◊ Anticipates moving to St. Louis in June 2026, to begin summer Greek class
- **Property Management**
 - ◊ A project to remove playground equipment, refurbishing the playground area to accommodate picnic tables, a permanent outdoor grill, and other upgrades is underway with help from the Iron Men group
 - * A member of Beautiful Savior's men's group joined us for Iron Men in April, and he offered to help us find some heavy equipment and support to remove the playground equipment and refurbish that area
 - * We will soon have a clean slate to work with, as all equipment and ground cover will be gone
 - * The area will become a place for outside gatherings, BBQ's, and other events
 - ◊ Responded to the bid for sound equipment in the Community Room, setting up an installation date in May
 - * The bid includes a receiver, mixer, sound jack installation, ceiling speakers, and various equipment to provide for audio needs

Dates to remember:

May 10, Sunday – Mother's Day
 May 14, Thursday – Ascension Day (7pm)
 May 24, Sunday – Pentecost Day / Confirmation Day
 May 25, Monday – Memorial Day
 May 31, Sunday – Trinity Sunday
 June 21, Sunday – Father's Day
 July 4, Saturday – 250th anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence



MAY Birthdays

Gary Markwart	May 4	Susan Rotramel	May 17
Donna Strutz	May 4	Rachel Kelley	May 18
Wanda Cassetty	May 5	Sasha Schaefer	May 18
Millie Edwards	May 5	Gertrud Bublies	May 19
Lily Fogarty	May 5	Justino Gamboa	May 21
Herb Hoefler	May 5	Rosemary Knox	May 21
Esperanza Gutierrez	May 6	John Knoke	May 22
Samantha Brannies	May 7	Maxine Markwart	May 24
Nichole Fogarty	May 7	Mike Potter	May 24
Mel Haggard	May 9	Gabriel Woods	May 25
Becky Mora	May 9	Emanuel Aguilar	May 26
Jean Dillon	May 10	Eric Kreps	May 29
Carrie Graham	May 10	Benjamin Schaefer	May 29
Jaden Mundo	May 11	Jakob Schaefer	May 29
Giselle Lavadores	May 12	Eduar Lavadores	May 30
Debbie Walter	May 14	Debbie Rekdahl	May 30
Brian Darnell	May 16	Roberta Ritchie	May 31
Jesse Reynolds	May 17	Audrey Zeebuyth	May 31



MAY Baptisms

Mel Haggard	May 1	Elaine Miller	May 14
Alex Ritchie	May 1	J.E. Knox	May 15
Eli Deal	May 2	Diana Laxton	May 15
Ellie Graham	May 2	Jean Dillon	May 16
Janice Hart	May 3	Karon Keup	May 19
Arlo Reinert	May 4	Paul Walter	May 19
Hilary Sylvia	May 5	Hana Brandt	May 20
Karin Richardson	May 8	Sasha Schaefer	May 23
Bob Freeman	May 12	Christian Mukul	May 27
Christina Freeman	May 12	Mark Jacobsen	May 30
James Freeman	May 12	Jeannette Krogh	May 30
Debbie Noonan	May 12	Rosemary Knox	May 31
Virginia Jacobs	May 14		



PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

- Brett Monson – Navy, San Diego CA (Grandson of Joann Schulz)
- Jamie Wong-Lopez, Navy, Kaneohe Bay HI (nephew of Merci McInaney)
- Clayton Wright, Air Force – (grandson of Virginia Jacobs)
- Colton Wright, Navy – (grandson of Virginia Jacobs)
- Tyler Young, Navy – Deployed (nephew of Karen Arronson).
- Bradley Zeller, Army – Fort Lewis WA (grandson of the Zeller's)
- Kyle Zeller, Army – Deployed to Poland (grandson of the Zeller's)



MAY Anniversaries

Keith and Sue Wentela	May 2, 1981
Jim and Barb Conway	May 4, 2024

Did we miss your special date? Please let the office know so we can get our records corrected for next year!

PLEASE REMEMBER THEM IN PRAYER

Debbie Rekdahl, Carolyn Shore, The Family of Lorraine Haggard, The Family of Don Tigges, Alma Bangs, Regan, Diane and Ed and Ingrid (friends and neighbors of Cynthia Jacobsen), Mark, a friend of the Bryant's), Diana (Sister-in-law of Randy Bryant), Barbara Lewis, Chenery Whittier's son (Aaryan), Heather Gulde, Riki Neagle, Jim Eckart, Gina Kreps, Mae Smith, *Larry Hart. *Home Bound.

If you know of anyone who needs prayer and you have permission to include them in this publication, Please call the church office to let Michele know. 503-665-8821

If you would like to be a "link" in our prayer chain, or if you have a prayer request, please send an email to: office@alcportland.org or call: 503-665-8821

MAY YOUTH AND FAMILY EVENTS

Last month, the youth and family ministry learned how to square dance! We started the night by reflecting on how, if we have fellowship with Christ in the light, we have fellowship with one another in that same light. We then ate some great food provided by our families at a potluck. Following our dinner, Mark Wheeler instructed us on different square dancing moves, and for over an hour, all ages had a blast.

The Youth and Family Ministry is so thankful to everyone who joined us, including a few from our sister churches of Beautiful Savior and Christ the Vine. This was a great opportunity to use the newly renovated basement!

What is going on for May?

On Friday, May 15 we will come together at 6:30pm for a time of fellowship and food. Bring a dish to share and join us in the community room. All ages are welcome to this event.

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT BRINGS JOY TO VANCE PARK

Ascension's Outreach Board once again hosted the Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Vance Park, welcoming children and families from around the area for a fun and joyful community event.

In preparation for the day, over 2,000 eggs were filled and made ready for the children to find. Many volunteers helped make the event possible by preparing the eggs, setting up, greeting families, and spending time with the children and parents who attended.

This event is a wonderful way for Ascension to reach out to our neighbors, connect with families in the community, and share the joy of Easter in a welcoming and friendly way. Thank you to everyone who helped fill eggs, volunteered at the event, and supported this outreach opportunity. Your time and service helped make the day a blessing for many children and families.



EASTER AT ASCENSION

Holy Week and Easter were filled with depth and meaning as we gathered to remember all that our Savior has done for us. From Maundy Thursday, to Good Friday, to the joy of Easter Sunday, each service gave us the opportunity to reflect on Christ's love, His sacrifice, and the hope we have through His resurrection.

On Easter Sunday, we also enjoyed our annual Easter Breakfast, a wonderful time of fellowship and connection before celebrating the resurrection of our Lord. The Human Care Board would like to thank everyone who helped make the breakfast a success, including the men of the Iron Men group, the Human Care Board, those who prepared food, and all others who helped. More than 100 people attended, enjoyed a delicious breakfast, and had fun winning prizes. Ticket sales raised \$820, which will support the Benevolence Fund to help people in need.

Thank you to everyone who helped make Holy Week and Easter such a meaningful time at Ascension. Through worship, fellowship, and outreach, we were blessed to connect more deeply with our Savior and with one another.

Maundy Thursday



Good Friday



NewsLetter
DEADLINE Please submit articles
 by Monday, May 25

Easter Sunday



Easter Breakfast





GET READY FOR THE LWML OREGON DISTRICT CONVENTION



Lutheran Women's Missionary League Oregon District 35th Biennial Convention

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School,
Roseburg, Oregon June 26-28, 2026

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control (2 Timothy 1:6-7).

For More Information and registration, visit:

<https://www.lwmlor.org/upcoming-convnetions>

**Look for the
in-gathering
box in the Narthex
where you can
contribute through
June 21, 2026.
Needs are →**



2026 OD LWML Convention
Ingathering

-Sleep in Heavenly Peace-
Douglas County Chapter

Items to donate:

Bedding items: New twin-size sheet set,
pillows, blankets, and quilts;

Gift cards: (Lowe's Hardware preferred,
lumber is purchased to make beds).



Women's Bible Study

Looking forward to our next
bible study on Tuesday,
May 12 at 2:00pm. The
lesson will be week 7 from
"Bless These Lips".

MAY SERVANTS

May	3	10	14	17	24	31
	Early Communion	Late Communion	Ascension Day	Early Communion	Pentecost/Confirmation	No Communion
ELDERS	Elder: Randy Schroeder Wyatt Brown 11:00 Acolyte: NEEDED 8:30 NEEDED 11:00 NEEDED	Elder: John Hazen Herb Hoefler 11:00 Acolyte: NEEDED 8:30 NEEDED 11:00 NEEDED	Elder: John Hazen 7:00 Usher: NEEDED 7:00 NEEDED	Elder: Dave Oswald Bob Ritchie 11:00 Acolyte: NEEDED 8:30 NEEDED 11:00 NEEDED	Elder: Randy Bryant Wyatt Brown 11:00 Acolyte: NEEDED 8:30 NEEDED 11:00 NEEDED	Elder: Bruce Blubaum John Hazen 11:00 Acolyte: NEEDED 8:30 NEEDED 11:00 NEEDED
USHERS	8:30—Communion 1) Mike Adams 2) John Aden 11:00 1) Don Brown 2) Marcus Young	8:30 1) NEEDED 2) Rich Bartell 11:00—Communion 1) Matthias McInaney 2) Paul Walter		8:30—Communion 1) Rich Bartell 2) Stan Chapulis 11:00 1) Bob Freeman 2) James Freeman	8:30 1) Duke Shepard 2) Bryant Shepard 11:00—Communion 1) Matthias McInaney 2) John Aden	8:30 1) Mike Adams 2) Jim Eckart 11:00 1) Paul Walter 2) Marcus Young
AV & PP	AV: Laura Potter 8:30 John Hazen 11:00 Power Point: Jenny Schuldheisz 8:30 Alex Hodges 11:00	AV: Stan Chapulis 8:30 Wyatt Brown 11:00 Power Point: Laura Potter 8:30 Katherine Houk 11:00	AV: NEEDED 7:00 Power Point: Debbie Rekdahl 7:00	AV: Laura Potter 8:30 J. E. Knox 11:00 Power Point: Jenny Schuldheisz 8:30 Rosemary Knox 11:00	AV: Stan Chapulis 8:30 Laura Potter 11:00 Power Point: Debbie Rekdahl 8:30 Michele Sprengle 11:00	AV: Stan Chapulis 8:30 Caleb Zeebuyth 11:00 Power Point: Wanda Cassetty 8:30 Alex Hodges 11:00
READERS	Greeters: Margo Bachhuber 8:30 Elizabeth Alvarado 11:00 Riki Neagle Reader: Karon Keup 8:30 J.E Knox 11:00	Greeters: Millie Edwards 8:30 Riki Neagle 11:00 Reader: Joann Schulz 8:30 Randy Schroeder 11:00	Greeter: NEEDED 7:00	Greeters: Nancy Thomas 8:30 Christina Freeman 11:00 Reader: Mark Wheeler 8:30 Carlyn Staudt 11:00	Greeters: Margo Bachhuber 8:30 Heather Guide 11:00 Reader: Jim Eckart 8:30 Carlyn Staudt 11:00	Greeters: Sheryl Maier 8:30 Sue Lewis 11:00 Reader: Sheryl Maier 8:30 Peggy Hall 11:00
FLOWERS	Altar: Karen Zahursky Flowers: John and Wendy Hazen Counters: Karon Keup and Sheryl Maier	Altar: Virginia Jacobs Flowers: Carrie Graham Counters: Stan Chapulis and Lottie Guernicke	Altar: FILL CANDLES Counters: Dave and Jan Oswald	Altar: Jan Oswald Flowers: NEEDED Counters: Dave and Jan Oswald	Altar: Debbie Rekdahl Flowers: Katherine and Wyatt Counters: Bob and Elaina Ritchie	Altar: Wendy Hazen Flowers: Bob Ritchie Counters: Karon Keup and Sheryl Maier

MAY CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 8:30am Worship w/Comm. 9:45am Education Hour 11:00am Worship 12:15pm NO Bell Practice 12:30pm Bridal Shower –Katherine 5:00pm Spanish Worship	4 10:30am Christianity 101 1:00pm Human Care Meeting 6:00pm Young Adult Bible Study	5 2:30 pm Confirmation 6:00pm Elder Meeting	6	7 6:00pm Praise Team 7:00pm Choir Practice	8	9 11:00am Lorraine Haggard Memorial
10 8:30am Worship 9:45am Education Hour 11:00am Worship w/ Comm. 12:15pm Bell Practice 5:00pm Spanish Worship 6:00pm Online Worship Posted	11 10:30am Christianity 101 1:00pm Stewardship Meeting 6:00pm Young Adult Bible Study	12 2:30 pm Confirmation 2:00pm Women's Bible Study 6:00pm Council Meeting	13 6:00pm Praise Team 7:00pm Choir Practice	14 7:00pm Ascension Day Worship	15 6:30 Youth and Family All are welcome - Potluck and fellowship	16 1:00pm Don Dillon Memorial
17 8:30am Worship w/Comm. 9:45am Education Hour 11:00am Worship 12:15pm Bell Practice 5:00pm Spanish Worship 6:00pm Online Worship Posted	18 10:30am Christianity 101 6:00pm Young Adult Bible Study	19 2:30 pm Confirmation	20	21 6:00pm Praise Team 7:00pm Choir Practice	22	23 8:00am Iron Men Devotion 11:00pm Quinceañera—Private Event
24 8:30am Worship—Pentecost 9:45am Education Hour 11:00am Worship—Confirmation w/ Communion 12:15pm Voters Assembly 12:15pm NO Bell Practice 5:00pm Spanish Worship	25 Memorial Day OFFICE CLOSED 6:00pm Young Adult Bible Study	26 NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE	27	28 6:00pm Praise Team 7:00pm Choir Practice	29	30
31 8:30am Worship 9:45am Education Hour 11:00am Worship 12:15pm Bell Practice 5:00pm Spanish Worship 6:00pm Online Worship Posted	June 1 6:00pm Young Adult Bible Study	June 2 6:00pm Elder Meeting	June 3	June 4 6:00pm Praise Team Choir on break until Fall	June 5	June 6